**Literature Circle Discussion**

**“The Bear That Wasn’t” by Frank Tashlin**

Read “The Bear That Wasn’t” by Frank Tashlin aloud in your groups. You may elect one group member to be the entire story, you can each read a page at a time, or you may read aloud in any other manner that your groups selects. Remember to listen and be respectful of your group members while they are reading, and to follow along in your own copy of the story as they read.

When you are finished reading the story, discuss the following questions in your groups:

1. When did the bear realize that he was no longer a bear? When was this moment? Did he ever re-assume his identity as a bear? When (if ever) did this happen?
2. What does it take for the bear to realize he is no longer a bear? Who does he believe in the end? What is he forced to do under his new identity?
3. What do you notice about the pictures? Do they connect with the text well? Why or why not? What messages are conveyed in the pictures that are not conveyed in the text?
4. What does the bear miss most about being a bear? What does he do to reclaim his identity?

Be prepared to discuss your group’s answers with the rest of the class!